1946 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Volume LVI I • Number 5 • May/June 2008

June Meeting

Friday, June 20—7:00 pm
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Meeting Program
Edison Fong, WB6IQN, currently an RF instructor at UC Berkeley, will present his DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 antennas. The antennas that Ed has invented have become standards in the industry and are used by hams, police, fire and commercial applications.

V.E. Testing
6:00-7:00 PM, prior to each meeting at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

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President's QRM

by Jason Legate, W6SN

May puttered along beautifully. The Field Day shirts are on order, the site is secured, press releases are going out soon. All in all, a nice start to the month. Field day definitely promises to be a great event this year, perhaps one of our biggest, lately, in terms of attendance. Just to remind everyone, Field Day this year is the weekend of June 28th and 29th. We will be out there setting up starting at 11am, Friday June 27th. Anyone who would like to is more than welcome to come out and join us, for either setup, or for operating. If you know anyone who hasn't been active on the air for a while, or maybe has never been on the air, invite them down. It's easy to get to, at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. We will be setup on the northern end of the Swim Center's parking lot. Thanks are very much in order to Leo Harrod and Gayle Vassar from the city, for helping us secure such a prime location.

I would like to apologize to everyone who showed up to the Auction last month. Due to a series of missteps and miscommunications, things didn't quite turn out how we hoped. Luckily, the club ended up no worse for wear, netting approximately $1400.

On the technical side, I also want to let everyone know that ATV is still on and off. There are some experiments taking place on the 900MHz band, and we do have our 1241MHz output on the air, although it is temporarily only on the building, and not up on the tower, in addition to being QRP (low power). They are working on getting 1241 back to full power, and trying to hammer out the issues they are having with the 900MHz transmitter. In addition, a lot of progress has been made toward finishing the voter project. Hopefully we'll have our first voting receiver up within a couple months.

Just one last reminder before I get out of here. I remind everyone that if they have any feedback, comments, suggestions, or questions for me or the club, that I'm available by email: *mdarc@proxime.net*

73 to all, W6SN

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior-to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to *carrier@mdarc.org* or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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MDARC Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2008
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Lafayette, CA

President Jason Legate, W6SN, called the meeting to order at 19:34.

Information about four recent silent keys was brought forward. It was indicated that Paul Parker WB6DHH's estate donated a large portion of the gear at the auction.

The membership report was given. We have 295 paid memberships, and the membership directories are ready for pick up.

Dick Brown spoke briefly about Pacificon. All the speakers, for the general presentations, as well as the breakfast and antenna forums have been chosen, and the information is available on the Pacificon website, www.pacificon.org. Dick also indicated that tickets are available for purchase.

The technical committee, as presented by the President, is requesting funding for the ATV Repeater Coordination Compliance Project. A quote for the Hustler Spirit antenna was presented, for $843.51, along with an allocation of funds for a tower climber, at $1500.00. The general membership voted unanimously to provide a budget of $2,345.00 for the project.

Jason Legate reminded those present that field day was approaching, and that we would be operating from Heather Farm Park, in Walnut Creek.

There was then a brief intermission, followed by a wonderful presentation about the resiliency of amateur radio networks.

At 21:17, President Jason Legate adjourned the meeting.

Minutes recorded by President Jason Legate, W6SN

Editor's Exciter

by Jeremiah R. Blasi, K6BQ

I would like to apologize to the club for failing to get the *Carrier* out last month. I had a number of unexpected things happen that completely shifted my focus, required all my time, and took me out of town. These events culminated in my accepting a new job as a pastor in the Tulsa, OK, area. I will be relocating during the month of July.

This also means that I will, of necessity, have to vacate the editorship of this newsletter. If you are interested in stepping up and volunteering, please let me know (k6bq@arrl.net), or email Jason, W6SN (mdarc@proxime.net). I have enjoyed putting the paper together, and will miss it, but in my new position, I will just not have time to do it (not to mention the fact that I won't be here!). I'll be happy to meet with you and give you a hand in getting started.

I have enjoyed the time spent in the Bay Area. I have gotten to know a number of you, and have truly enjoyed the friendship. I will stay in touch on the air, both HF and Echo/IRLP, and by email. I will certainly miss the club and the repeater groups that I have enjoyed here.

Catch you on the air!

73 de K6BQ

Public Service Events

by Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, MDARC Public Services Coordinator

The following is a list of public service events for this year. Give me a call or email to sign up (Pete Harris at 925-228-4503, pharris125@comcast.net). You can also sign up for events at our regular MDARC monthly meetings.

25/50 Mile Diablo Trail Endurance Ride
6/21/08, Mt. Diablo (starting at North Gate)
Radio Coordinator: John Stuart

4th of July Parade
7/4/08, Downtown Pleasant Hill
Radio Coordinator: Pete Harris

Alcatraz Challenge Swim
8/23/08, San Francisco Bay
Radio Coordinator: Barry Bettman

Mt Diablo Challenge
10/5/08, Mt. Diablo
Radio Coordinator: John Stuart

Mount Diablo Trail Adventure
11/2/08, Castle Rock Park
Radio Coordinator: John Stuart

Operating Practice

Just a reminder—the FCC rules instruct us to use the "minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications."

There has been an issue of interference with other repeaters. The board is aware of this issue, and it is being investigated by all parties involved, but we can each help in a small way by ensuring that we're not using more power than necessary to communicate. This will not solve the problem, but it will help to alleviate it while possible fixes are explored. Thank you for being great amateur radio operators!

CHP Position on the "Hands-Free" Wireless Telephone Laws

By Robert F. Gonsett, W6VR, Editor, The CGC Communicator
June 3, 2008

Can we use our radios after the "hands-free" law goes into effect?

CGC has been flooded with opinions on the subject of the "hands-free" wireless telephone laws that go into effect in California on July 1, 2008. However, two readers sent us copies of the following letter from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) that appears to be great news for not just ham radio operators, but two-way users in general.

CGC has verified the authenticity of the following e-mail. Please, no more letters on "hands-free" unless you have breaking news from official sources. We greatly appreciate your input but do not have the staff to summarize all of the views, many from individuals who have not yet seen the CHP letter.

While the following letter is not necessarily binding on non-CHP law enforcement officers, we plan to carry a copy of the letter in our two-way radio equipped vehicles to reduce our chances of becoming a legal test case come July 1.

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL E-MAIL

Date: Tue, 27 May 2008 07:48:20 -0700

From: Fran Clader <FClader@chp.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: New Cell Phone Laws - July 1, 2008

The new cell phone laws involve only wireless telephones. They do not concern radios such as your (Amateur Radios), unless they are also wireless telephones. Again, the law only applies to wireless telephones. Thanks for your inquiry. If you have any further questions, please give us a call. Or, you can call your local area CHP office.

Fran Clader
Commander
Office of Media Relations
California Highway Patrol
(916) 657-7202

End of email

P.S. In a separate communication, Commander Fran Clader reminds us that, as always, "safety is the CHP's primary concern. All motorists are strongly encouraged to operate a motor vehicle safely, paying attention to their safe operation of the vehicle, the changing road and weather conditions and the actions or anticipated actions of other drivers."

Copyright 2008, Communications General Corporation. This article was taken from issue #839 of the CGC Communicator. This article, as well as archives of the publication, is available at http://www.bext.com/_CGC/, or by emailing Robert Gonsett at *r.gonsett@ieee.org*.

Ham Radio Volunteers Provide Support during Santa Cruz Fire

by ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Moffitt, AE6GS

www.arrl.org

Ham radio volunteers from Santa Cruz ARES provided a vital layer of communications to support firefighters, law enforcement, Red Cross and even animal control during the Martin fire in the hills above Santa Cruz over Father's Day weekend. As of Tuesday, June 17, the fire, which covered more than 500 acres, was completely contained. Four people were injured in the fire. Three homes were destroyed and another one was damaged, while eight outbuildings burned down. Santa Cruz, home to University of California, Santa Cruz, is a town of about 55,000 people located on the northern edge of Monterrey Bay.

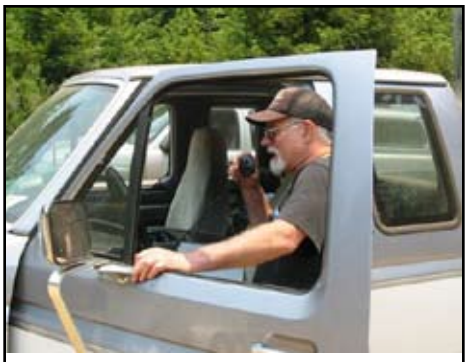
Cap Pennell, KE6AFE, and Allen Fugelseth, WB6RWU, during a calm moment in the radio room at the County Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz.

During the blaze, ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Moffitt, AE6GS, said the radios in the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center were "crackling with traffic as hams across the area transferred information, made requests and made sure the various agencies -- from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's department -- were kept abreast of the progress in fighting the fire and the needs that arose in the area." Yet, Moffitt said, even with all this going on, "ARES volunteers remained completely professional, ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of the flow of traffic."

"Our group got some valuable practice during the Summit fire a few weeks ago," said ARRL Santa Cruz County District Emergency Coordinator Cap Pennell, KE6AFE, who manned the radio room in the Santa Cruz EOC. "Our people were much more ready for this fire, and the quality of the response shows." The Summit fire burned more than 4200 acres in both Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, destroying 31 homes and 63 outbuildings. Both the Martin and Summit fires remain under investigation.

Helping to evacuate people in the fire's path was an immediate priority, and the ARES teams facilitated communications between the various agencies who were notifying people about their evacuation status. But pets and livestock, including a multi-hundred pound pig, also needed to be moved from harm's way. That's when Santa Cruz County Animal Control organized volunteers from Equine Evacuation, a local animal evacuation organization, to help transport animals out of the fire zone. Several hams are also members of the group, and with their help, Equine Evacuation safely and efficiently removed more than 50 animals, including horses and other livestock, to safe locations.

"I slept about four hours last night," confessed Hap Bullard, KQ6YV, as he stood next to his ham radio-equipped pickup hooked up to his empty horse trailer at the staging area for the animal evacuation. Bullard is a ham radio operator who also serves with Equine Evacuation. "I'm here to ensure the animal control people can stay in touch with the Emergency Operations Center, but I'll be going to pick up horses if I'm needed," he said.



Hap Bullard, KQ6YV, on the radio at the Equine Evacuation staging area.

Field Day

by Trevor Raty, KG6MDW

Field day is officially a little over one week away! We will holding it over at Heather Farms park in Walnut Creek, off of Ygnacio Valley road. We currently have band captains for all the bands, but if you want to operate please contact a band Capitan. Food will be provided by SATERN, they will also be operating the GOTA station located inside of the MDARC Trailer.

If you would like to bring your RV or Tent we have limited spaces; please RSVP to traty13(at)hotmail.com with your RV/Tent size and what days you will be staying. For more information please visit our wiki at http://wiki.slashze.ro and join the mailing list athttp://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc-fieldday.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club in conjunction with Contra Costa County Races And the City of Walnut Creek Present:

FIELD DAY '08

An emergency communications exercise

How will you get help when the "Big One" hits? What if a fire destroys your neighborhood or city? Don't even bother with your phone, chances are it's going to be overloaded. Have a CB or FRS Radio? It wouldn't be any use if you don't know how to communicate with it. What if you were a licensed amateur that was prepared? Then you could help save lives, loved ones, even a whole city!

Come out to MDARC's Field Day '08—An emergency communications exercise and learn how to be prepared. Come learn how to setup, design and operate a station in the event of a disaster. Examples of temporary antennas, temporary power and radio setup, traffic handling, and on-air commutation techniques, and food management.

We will have representatives of Contra Costa Sherriff's office, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, Walnut Creek CERT, Salvation Army / Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network; and other organizations.

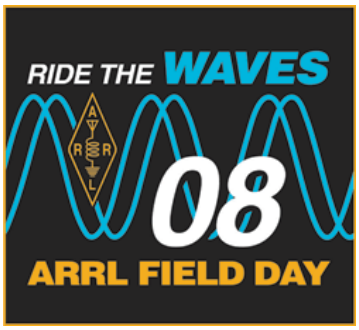
Food will be provided for anyone who operates or sets up/tears down by the Salvation Army Canteen (Who also feed public service agencies at incidents) Limited camping and RV parking (No hookups) is available. Please RSVP to traty13(at) hotmail.com with tent / RV size.

If you would like to be involved with the planning process or would like to assist with setup/teardown, please sign up for our e-mail list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc-fieldday or at any of the sites below.

Due to other events at the park, there will be limited parking. Please do not park in the swim center parking lot. We will be in the back of the parking lot.

More info at: http://wiki.slashze.ro

And: http://www.mdarc.org

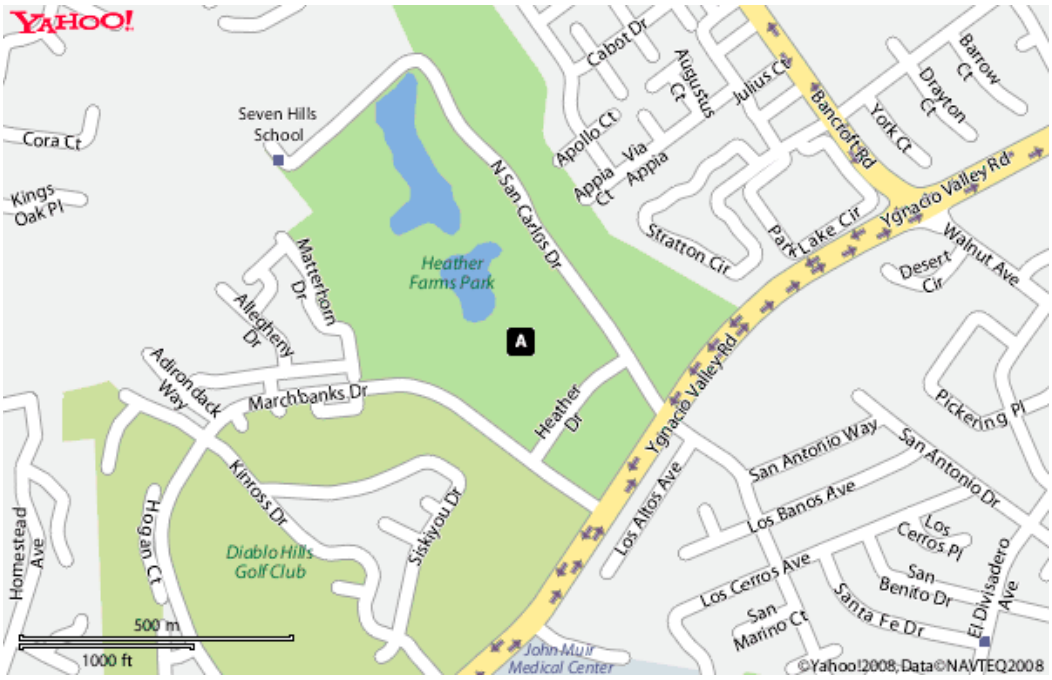


How to get there

From 680N / Hwy 24:
Take the Yginacio Valley Road exit and turn East (Right) Follow down to N. San Carlos Dr. and turn left.

From 680S / Hwy 4:
Take the Treat Blvd. Exit; turn left onto North Main, then turn left onto Treat. Follow down to Bancroft and turn right. Follow down to Yginacio Valley and turn Right, follow down to N. San Carlos Dr. and turn right.

Parking will be limited—Do not park in the swim center parking lot.



MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2008
Fuddruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

President Jason Legate W6SN, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Other Board Members present: Vice-President Dave Mulkearns, K6OH; Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX; Treasurer Don Anthony, N6SIA (in part); and EC Bob Green, K6GD. Also present were Directors Herbert Cole, KI6ATB; Dave Gordon, N6SWE; Trevor Hall, WA6JAU; and Trevor Raty, KG6MDW; as well as Past President Marty Heyman, W6MDH. Also present were Tim Barrett, K6BIV, as well as OH and MDW XYLs.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Don Anthony reported $43,652.13 in CDs, and a $8,778.34 checkbook balance. Also, Don reported that insurance coverage was denied for certain equipment, including the laminator and projectors. Jason will check further into this issue. Don turned over the refreshment and drawing equipment because he will have surgery and be unavailable at meetings for about 3 months. He will continue to pay the bills and track the club treasury.

SK announcement: Bill Mullen, KG6OBS, Concord.

The Board discussed some auction rules, such as: early check-in, equipment to stay on tables (no withdrawal, etc.). Next year's auction rules will be published in advance.

The Field Day site will be at Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek. The agreement with the city has been approved.

Committee Reports:

Tech Committee:

Trevor Hall reported on the recent Saturday meeting and the discussion of ATV. The group plans to have ATV active, but the proposed freq.(s) in the 900 band have conflicts, and would not be available. The NARCC meeting on May 10 will be discussing frequency situations. The committee discussed ongoing interference on 2m, and further follow-up. They decided to reinstate the commute-time timer. The 1.2 Gig antenna replacement will be brought to the membership for a vote.

The Board conveyed to the Committee their sense that first priority now should be the completion of the 2m voter project. (The ATV antenna will be placed on the tower to ensure operation of ATV.) After the voter project, ATV or new projects could be addressed.

Old Business:

- Herb will check on getting flyers to HRO.

New Business:

- The Board agreed that a "Sunshine" Coordinator should be named, perhaps on a monthly basis. Jason accepted an offer from Dave, K6OH, to volunteer for this month.
- The By-laws may need to be revised to raise the $200 limit on Board only approval of expenditures, perhaps by indexing for inflation, with a periodic review.
- Tim K6BIV advised the Board that an initiative being discussed was the narrow-banding of 2m (not D-Star). NBFM would have splits at 12.5kc, which would require a new frequency allocation of repeaters. The Board discussed this idea, and offered a sense of support.

Emergency Coordinator:

Bob noted that RACES changed their meeting date to the 4th Wednesday instead of the 1st Wednesday. Training remains on the 3rd Wednesday. Check the website at *www.cc-races.org*.

Jason adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectuflly submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

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W6CX Nets

147.06 & 441.325 MHz (100 PL)

Thursday 7:30 pm
MDARC Club Net

Thursday 8:00 pm
General ATV Net

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County	145.680 Simplex Jim Brunk, N6BHX
East County	146.535 Simplex Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County	146.355/+ (100 PL) Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County	145.110/- Steve Adams, KF6WNH

June Events

June 20	7:30 pm	**MDARC Monthly Meeting** *Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette*
June 28-29	All Day	**Field Day** - see www.MDARC.org *Heather Farms Park, Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, CA*
June 30		**March Carrier Deadline**
July 7	7:00 pm	**MDARC Board Meeting** *Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek*

The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

***Next Meeting—June 20*—Ed Fong, WB6IQN—Antennas**